The Southern PATRIOT

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Southern Challenge

A Southern challenge to both major political parties to "reverse the present tragic trend" in national and international affairs was issued by the Board of Representatives of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare meeting in Birmingham April 19th. The statement follows. To help meet the crisis, Conference plans were adopted for immediately intensified educational, political action, membership and financial drives throughout the South.

Before casting their ballots in the 1948 national elections, the Southern people must find a constructive solution to their greatest political dilemma since the Civil War. Their decision will be a powerful factor in the future political life of the entire nation.

Traditionally the people of the South have opposed the Republican Party. They are equally opposed to the present Democratic Party policies and to Southern Tory Democrats causing hysteria about the danger of a third World War.

Nine years ago, when the Southern Conference for Human Welfare was organized, the Southern people had, through the leadership of Franklin D. Roosevelt, come to expect Democratic Party leadership toward a vital democracy and an increased prosperity for the people. The Economic Bill of Rights gave us hope and confidence for the future.

Even during the war years, the Four Freedoms symbolized continued gains in the realization of equal rights for all. Industrial development of the South brought about a better way of life.

Now that victory over fascist military power has been achieved, the Southern people are shocked to find that these gains are being taken from them.

The Southern people expected continued progress toward enjoyment of the Economic Bill of Rights. Instead, we get the mutilation of the Wage and Hour Act, the threatened destruction of the entire American labor movement, the increasing encroachment of absentee monopoly control of Southern business. We get the threatened unemployment of millions of farm workers due to mechanization. We get the crippling of many federal agencies whose services are most acutely needed in the South, and the neglect of social legislation to meet the most severe housing, education, health, child welfare and social security needs.

The Southern people expected federal and state legislation to abolish the poll tax and outlaw lynching. Instead, we get "white primary bills," a series of postwar lynchings, renewed organized hate campaigns. We get a federal executive order and proposed legislation which enemies of the Southern people can use to intimidate all individual and organized democratic expression and action.

The Southern people expected increased production to raise living standards in the South and throughout the nation, thereby fulfilling America's ability to meet her just share of the needs of stricken European and Asiatic peoples through the instrumentality of the United Nations. Instead we get the fear of atomic energy as a means of universal destruction and the threat of World War III.

Confronted with this dilemma, the greatest political need of the Southern people is to give urgent consideration, through their churches, unions and associations of every kind, to the best way of reversing the tragic present trend. Effective action in this historic moment will lay the basis for a political decision in 1948 which will make it possible for the South to realize her own magnificent possibilities and to make her indispensable contribution to the national and international good.

The human needs and the political aspirations of the Southern people will not be frustrated by reactionary programs of either traditional party.

Wallace Washington Speech

Henry A. Wallace will deliver a major address in Washington June 16th under the auspices of a nationally-known group of sponsors, Dr. Joseph L. Johnson, chairman of the Washington Committee of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare announced May 1.

Dr. Johnson stated that the "national homecoming" of the former Vice-President has been arranged "so that the people of Washington may be able to hear this great statesman first hand and form their own opinions on the controversial issues of the day." Mr. Wallace is an Advisory Associate of the Conference.

The statement was unanimously adopted by the following SCHW Board members present at the Birmingham meeting: Clark Foreman, President; Louis Burnham, Executive Secretary, Southern Negro Youth Congress; Rebecca Gershon, SCHW Committee for Georgia; Myles Horton, Director, Highlander Folk School; Lucy Randolph Mason, Southern CIO Public Relations Director; William Mitch, President, District 20, United Mine Workers AFL, Birmingham; George Mitchell, Director, Southern Regional Council; S. J. Rodman, SCHW Washington Committee; Eugenie Schwartz, SCHW Louisiana Committee; Mrs. A. W. Simkins, Secretary, South Carolina Conference, NAACP; Rev. John Thompson, Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Norman, Okla.; Rev. Charles Webber, President, Virginia CIO Council; Daniel Weitzman, SCHW Treasurer; Aubrey Williams, Publisher, *The Southern Farmer*.

Also present at the Board meeting were Administrator and Associate Administrators James A. Dombrowski, Edmonia W. Grant and Frank C. Bancroft; state executive secretaries Virginia Beecher, Virginia; Sam Carrothers, Louisiana; Malcolm Dobbs, Alabama; Mary Price, North Carolina; Robert Straus, Washington; Branson Price, SCHW New York City Committee.

Votes for Southern Living Standards

Twenty-eight Southern U. S. Representatives voted against the Hartley "kill labor" Bill. Their names are recorded at the bottom of this page. At this writing, they constitute the foundation upon which a substantial Southern opposition to the destruction of the American labor movement must be erected.

As you read this statement, the Senate may have passed the Taft-Ball legislation either in an amended form which fully matches the viciousness of the Hartley Bill, or in its original slightly sugar-coated form.

The historic import of these measures was brought home to you in the one-page issue of *The Southern Patriot* which reached you shortly before May 1st. This and your other reading have made plain to you that what is involved is the survival or destruction of a free trade union movement. You know what that means for Southern progress.

There will be need for urgent action when you read this.

If, as now seems improbable, the Senate has not adopted the Bill, the need will be for immediate wires to your Senators.

If it has passed the Bill, and a joint Senate-House Committee is working out a compromise measure, communicate immediately with President Truman demanding that he veto the measure.

If the measure is vetoed, the big job is to make that veto stick. Communicate with your Senators and Representatives without a day's loss of time, insisting that there is no basis whatever for any kind of anti-labor legislation in Congress.

Congressmen who have voted for labor should know of your support. Those who voted against labor on the first round must know of your determination that they change their vote on the second round.

In the 80th Congressional Session's first great test on living standards, nine Southern Senators and Representatives voted to protect the people of the South while 138 either voted for greater poverty or failed to vote at all.

Most of the press didn't clarify the issue to the public in this way. They played up the "portal to portal" controversy. The Gwynne Bill in the House and its companion in the Senate, however, were really aimed at maiming the Wage and Hour Act, a measure which has brought economic gains to a great army of organized and unorganized Southern wage-earners.

The names of the nine Southerners who voted for the people of the South should be recorded. They are Senators Lister Hill and John J. Sparkman, Alabama; Claude Pepper, Florida; Alben W. Barkley, Kentucky; Elmer Thomas, Oklahoma; Olin D. Johnston, South Carolina; and Representatives Brent Spence and W. Howes Meade, Kentucky, and Glen D. Johnston, Oklahoma.

Southern House Votes Against the Hartley Bill

STATE	SCORE	VOTED RIGHT
Alabama	6-3	Jones, Manasco, Rains
Arkansas	6-1	Hays
Florida	5-1	Smathers
Georgia	8-2	Lanham, Wood
Kentucky	5-4	Bates, Clements, Meade, Spence
Louisiana	6-2	Boggs, Morrison
Mississippi	7-0	None
North Carolina	10-2	Cooley, Folger
Oklahoma	3-5	Albert, Johnson, Monroney, Morris, Stigler
South Carolina	6-0	None
Tennessee	8-2	Kefauver, Phillips
Texas	16-5	Combs, Pickett, Rayburn, Thomas, Thomason
Virginia	8-1	Flanagan
The South	94-28	

Left column shows votes for Hartley Bill and absences. Right column, votes against Bill. Oklahoma leads Southern states by showing a majority for protection of a free labor movement.

Florida Vote Fight

First official action on Florida State Senator John E. Mathews' white primary bill was a draw. The Senate Privileges and Elections Committee reported it out without recommendation. Leo Sheiner, President of the SCHW Florida Congressional District Committee, was one of those who testified against it.

The April issue of *The Southern Patriot* reported the Winter Park meeting coordinated by SCHW at which 350 leading citizens from all parts of the State established the Committee to Defend Democracy in Florida for the purpose of defeating the measure.

The Committee is conducting an intensive campaign throughout the State.

Publication Schedule

The present issue of The Southern Patriot was "in the works" when it became clear that an emergency communication must go immediately to all readers concerning the Hartley-Taft-Ball "kill labor" bills.

The quickest way to communicate with readers was a one-page special number, which was produced and mailed within 24 hours.

Post Office regulations, however, made it impossible to publish an extra, or supplementary, number. Accordingly, the one-page "Labor Crisis Issue" constituted our May number.

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THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE
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FRANK C. BANCROFT, *Associate Administrator and Editor*

Mecca for Dixie Demagogues Sought in Louisiana

Ex-Silver Shirter 3223 Gerald L. K. Smith tried to "consecrate" Winnfield, La., as the Mecca of the Fascist South April 20th. Observers for The Southern Patriot report that he didn't get very far.

The theater selected was a country town on Saturday, with the public square as the stage. Several of the leading actors didn't appear and the crowd was small and apathetic. But the effort to glamorize Winnfield, or some other place, as the Munich Beer Hall of Southern Fascism will no doubt continue.

Winnfield was chosen because it is the birthplace of Huey P. Long, most spectacularly successful Dixie Demagogue. The occasion was to honor his memory and whip up enthusiasm for the erection of a shrine in his name. Also Winnfield is singularly "free" of a strong labor movement, an effective organization of Negro citizens or any other organized democratic influence. It's a place where hate-agents from Georgia and Texas, and the intervening states, could meet conveniently.

The plans were grandiose. Announced April 10th in a half-page advertisement in *The Winn Parish Enterprise* as "The Greatest Meeting in Louisiana History," its headliners were to be Smith, Talmadge, Bilbo and Dr. George (Huey's brother) Long, Director of The White Supremacy League. Talmadge and Bilbo didn't appear. Smith, Long and Rev. J. Boyd Davis of Beaumont, Texas, harangued the small morning and afternoon audiences which gathered in the Winnfield public square.

Talmadge's absence was explained on the basis that "things started to happen in Georgia to shift the balance of power from the whites to the Negroes, and he had to stay there to work for his people." No explanation was made about the Angel of Juniper Grove.

The following quotations from Smith's Winnfield speeches will give *Patriot* readers the approach of Southern Fascist leaders as they seek a GHQ in Winnfield, La., or wherever they can find one:

"We're a nation of geldings! We've been caster-ated! We've been emasculated! Look out for the lash of the carpetbagger on your back!"

"I write for 300 newspapers in the United States. I employ 31 people to do nothing but open my mail. Occasionally I am offered financial support from

WHITE SUPREMACY

We the undersigned citizens of the United States of America are opposed to the intermarriage of black and white.
We are opposed to the Communist-endorsed F.E.P.C.
We favor the separation of black and white in [illegible] theatres, and elsewhere.
We believe in the white primary.
THEREFORE we petition our Congressmen and Senators and all public office holders to support these principles and brand all who oppose these principles as [illegible]

10 Million White People to be Driven From Their Homes to Make Room for Black Communist Soviet

people will have to be driven out of their homes. Among the leading cities that will be turned over completely to the Negroes will be Charleston, Atlanta, Shreveport, New Orleans, Savannah, as well as many others. The land which now belongs to the whites will be confiscated and turned over to the Red bureaucrats for control.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Cross and the Flag, a monthly magazine edited by Gerald L. K. Smith, is the official organ for the crusade of Christian Nationalism. This dynamic magazine is devoted exclusively to the most fearless

Reminiscent of Hitler's scare-technique, "Racial Purity" and "Red Conspiracy" were theme-songs of written material handed out at Winnfield, La., meeting.

those who would like to make me a deal."

"Twenty million people are in slave camps in Russia because they refused to betray Christ. I am the head of the most powerful anti-Communist organization in America, with 8,000,000 constitutents. We endorsed 187 candidates in the recent elections for Congress, and 163 were successful and victorious because of their stand against Communism and for Americanism."

"In 1934 Huey P. Long said they ought to shoot Henry Wallace before he did any more harm. Remember his 'destroy everything' program? They killed the sows while you and your families were starving. Now he's making speeches against our president in a foreign country."

"This is a dark hour. The atom-bomb may be dropped any minute. Governor Earle of Pennsylvania says if we don't get Russia first, they're gonna get us. Do you think the Texas City explosion was an accident?"

"Under the GI Bill the Negroes are getting money because they're veterans. There is a bill about to pass saying no university can educate a man unless it admits both black and white. Another bill would subsidize your schools—but only if you allow both colored and white to attend the same schools. Some of your preachers are for it—they're full of it."

"Eleanor Roosevelt has done more to promote bad feelings between black and white than anybody else in this country. She entertained the Communists at tea in the White House. She went arm in arm with Negro men. You don't have to believe in hate in order to stand against things like that. When you and your wife go into a hotel and want to wash up, you go into different rooms. Why? Because civilization demands it. That doesn't mean you hate your wife. In the same way, civilization demands the separation of white from black."

"I see some Negroes here. Don't go away, you Negroes. I'm talking to you, too. We're gonna be good to you. You're a child race. We're gonna give you another 100 years. But we're gonna keep the government of this country in our hands."

"You've already registered 262 Negroes in your parish (county). Your legislature has done nothing about a white primary. Your state is gonna be delivered to the New York manipulators."

"I know there's some old soreheads among you who never liked our great Huey Long, the Abraham Lincoln of the South. I say you ought to be buried face down."

Declaration of Universal Franchise

"Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Jefferson of Virginia and the fathers of our Nation left that heritage to us in the Declaration of Independence 170 years ago. Never fully honored, today it is under renewed attack. "Consent of the governed" is being openly challenged as the basis for government.

In some states those who fear the increased use the American people have been making of their ballots were alarmed by the 1944 U. S. Supreme Court decision declaring unconstitutional the exclusion, because of color, of citizens from voting in primaries. With South Carolina as the bridgehead, they repealed all state laws governing primaries, thus making them "private affairs."

This was "to protect white supremacy." But "white supremacy" is only the slogan, as was "Aryan supremacy" in Germany. The strategy is to divide the people so that they may be deprived of their political voice. The objective is to prevent them from using the ballot to advance the welfare of the many by restraining the greed of the few.

But the right of *every* citizen to vote is the bedrock of our democratic republic. When its enjoyment is stolen from one group, every group is in immediate danger of losing it.

It has long been evident to democratically minded Southerners that the poll tax, the "grandfather clause," the unreasonable educational requirements leaving arbitrary authority in the hands of individual registrars, are not compatible with the universal franchise. Now, in the "white primary" bills, we see the newest form of the attack upon "consent of the governed."

These bills are designed to remove all governmental authority to insure fair and free primaries. In the South, the primaries actually place public servants in office. The bills, therefore, destroy the franchise rights not only of Negro citizens, but of the great majority of white citizens. They hand our state governments over to small, private political gangs.

Presented by the challenge of such an emergency, our duty is clear.

We call for vigilant governmental protection of universal franchise.

We call for vigorous opposition to every law arbitrarily restricting or taxing the right to vote in both general elections and primaries.

We call for determined citizen action to protect the freedom for which Americans of all races, creeds and political persuasions have given their lives.

We have not forgotten freedom's cost. We will not have our freedom taken from us.

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Affiliations are for identification and do not necessarily imply organizational endorsement. Many of the signers are also officers or board members of S. C. H. W.

Use this statement as a poster. Insert it as an advertisement in your local paper. Use it as a petition and send it, with state and local names attached, to your national and state representatives. Ask church groups, unions, and other organizations to endorse it. Order additional copies immediately.

Copies available at 5 cents each, $3.00 for 100, $10 for 1000.

LETTER

Aubrey Williams, Publisher of The Southern Farmer, *is a member of the Board of Representatives of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and Chairman of the SCHW Committee for Alabama.*

During the New Deal period he served as National Youth Administrator and in other top federal social service posts. In January, 1945 the Republican-Tory Democrat coalition in Congress succeeded in nullifying his appointment, by President Roosevelt, as Rural Electrification Administrator.

Our nation's leadership is confused. The natural leaders of the people are divided, and appear to be in a frenzy of fear and disillusionment because of the inexplicable course of Russia and the Communists.

Many liberals are rushing into a position which can lead only to a new version of the anti-Comintern pact. The implications of their position grows ominous. They are now allied with those who are demanding that Wallace be prosecuted for stating a position which reflects the sentiments of two-thirds of the American people—as shown by the latest Gallup polls.

The time calls for a simple, clear program which decent, peace-loving Americans can accept. It also calls for a program to which President Truman and his advisers can accede.

If Franklin D. Roosevelt were here, this is the kind of dramatic program he would probably announce:

First, the United States cannot undertake to establish democracy in a nation where a king rules surrounded by monarchists and plutocrats. Help must be conditioned on withdrawal or collapse of these forces.

Second, order and peace must be restored within Greece. As matters now stand, our army officers will know nothing except to arm the monarchists and assorted reactionaries. This will inevitably enrage and frustrate the Greek people who have been revolting for 20 years against these forces, despite hunger, privation and war. We must arm only Greek republicans and democrats. This requires that Americans or UN representatives know something about political philosophy.

Third, we must rebuild the Greek economy. We must do this in a way which the American people will understand, and which is within the framework of our own system. We must not make a lot of Greek plutocrats into tyrannical millionaires in the process.

Aubrey Williams

Franklin D. Roosevelt would rebuild the Greek economy in the same way he rebuilt our own:

(a) Provide for electric power, which is basic, by a Greek TVA owned by the Greek people.

(b) Reestablish transportation by first paying off any private individuals who claim ownership of the dilapidated Greek railways. Rebuild these railways in the name of the Greek people to be owned as our own post office system is owned.

(c) Establish a Greek National Bank, similar to our own Federal Reserve System, or the present Bank of England.

(d) Provide for rehabilitation of private productive enterprises through an RFC. Provide for the farm economy through a Farm Credit Administration based on cooperative loan associations, together with a Farm Security Administration.

This program will make sense to the American people. It will make sense and give tremendous encouragement to democrats everywhere. It will win the support of all middle-of-the-road nations, such as Britain, the dominions, the Scandinavians, France, Central and South America.

This program can be undertaken by American leadership acting under the sponsorship of the United Nations. If the world is in great danger, we should act to win spontaneous support of all democratic nations.

AUBREY WILLIAMS

LSU Student Vote

Late in March the students of Louisiana State University registered nearly a 2-1 majority vote that a nine-state conference to be held on the campus April 17-19 should be interracial.

Background for the decision was an August, 1946 meeting in Prague, at which the International Union of Students was established. A Chicago meeting in December, 1946 set up the National Student Organization as the American affiliate of the new IUS.

A year ago, previous to the Chicago meeting, students from nine Southern states had agreed to meet on the LSU campus in April, 1947. As the conference shaped up, it was decided that the new NSO would be a principal topic.

Then the fireworks began. Representatives from Xavier University, New Orleans, had attended the Chicago conference. The question arose whether they should be invited to the April 17-19 meeting at LSU. On March 19th *The Daily Reveille*, LSU student paper, announced that the student council had reached the decision that "it is not wise to have an inter-racial conference."

The Daily Reveille itself, however, launched an editorial campaign for a democratic, inter-racial conference in accordance with the policy of the new NSO. Affirmative letters from students crowded the readers' page, among them statements from the Canterbury (Episcopal) Club, the Newman (Catholic) Club and Rev. W. E. Trice, Pastor, the University Methodist Church.

Interest mounted to the point where a student poll was conducted. The result was 2,494 for a democratic conference and 1,359 against. Only the law college voted negatively by the close count of 116 to 109. *The Daily Reveille* commented "Louisiana State University students have taken their stand. A stand to be proud of."

The LSU Student Council did not take this as a mandate to hold the nine-state meeting inter-racially. It did, however, conduct a one-day meeting of white and Negro representatives for the three-state area Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas, one of the 30 regions established by the NSO.

Sixteen delegates from four Negro colleges met with representatives from white colleges. The vote of the LSU student body found confirmation in the fact that Louis Curet of LSU was elected president and Lucius J. Baker of Southern University, Baton Rouge, a Negro institution, vice-president.

Housing Victory Needs Immediate Citizen Action

Southern delegates to the National Public Housing Conference held in Washington April 14th left for home with a special sense of responsibility. Passage in this session of Congress of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill rested heavily upon the action of 13 Southern Senators and Representatives.

All but two of the minority members of the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency, where the T-E-W Bill (S. 866) was stymied, represent Southern states. They are Burnet R. Maybank (S. C.), J. W. Fulbright (Ark.), A. Willis Robertson (Va.), and John Sparkman (Ala.).

On April 23 Senator Maybank voted favorably to break a tie in the Committee and the Bill was reported out to the Senate floor.

Southern members of the House Banking and Currency Committee, which has not yet begun consideration of the companion measure (HR 2523) are Brent Spence (Ky.), Paul Brown (Ga.), Wright Patman (Tex.), Mike Monroney (Okla.), John Folger (N. C.), Brooks Hays (Ark.), John Riley (S. C.), Albert Rains (Ala.), and Hale Boggs (La.). These men should be urged to end further delay in beginning hearings.

A Census Bureau survey released last month shows that from 30 to 40 percent of married veterans are living in rented rooms or doubled up with in-laws. It reveals that the average veteran can afford between $40 and $50 a month rent and cannot afford housing costing over $6000.

The T-E-W Bill is the nation's last chance for decent homes in the forseeable future. A similar, but not identical, bill died in the Senate last year.

Fitzpatrick
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

This year the T-E-W Bill and its companion bill in the House, can be passed if a people's lobby for good housing can work hard enough for the bill to counterbalance the vociferous and well-financed real estate lobby.

Main provisions of the T-E-W Bill:

1. All government housing agencies to be coordinated under a permanent National Housing Commission.

2. Government research "to assist in increasing the production of better housing and progressively reducing housing costs . . ."

3. Strengthening existing tools of Home Loan Bank and FHA to enable them to service moderate income families and veterans more effectively.

4. Enable private enterprise to serve lower income families in home ownership and rental housing by liberalizing loan facilities and interest rates.

5. A special program of "yield insurance" for rental housing for low-income families to encourage private investors in rental housing. This guarantees a fair return for large-scale and institutional investors in rental housing, in effect doing for them what Federal Deposits Insurance did for bankers.

6. Government aid program for slum-clearance to make way for public and private projects.

7. Resumption of public low-rent housing program.

8. Authorization of Department of Agriculture to make loans, contributions and grants for farm housing.

9. Public housing programs for rural non-farm areas.

Liquidation of the Wyatt program was a green light to building profiteers to construct everything but low-cost housing. Destruction of OPA, which the building interests so loudly proclaimed would solve the housing shortage, has resulted in an increase in building costs and a steady monthly decrease in the number of housing units started and completed. Due to the failure of the 79th Congress to pass the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill, the Nation's housing program has already lost a year of valuable time.

The Housing Legislative Information Service estimates that there is a 50-50 chance for passage of S. 866 in the Senate. The organized lobbies of the large real estate interests are marshalling tremendous financial reserves to insure defeat of the bill.

The Conference on Housing in Washington was organized to coordinate the effort on the part of the people, through their national organizations, to fight for passage of the T-E-W Bill—the only good overall housing bill introduced in this session of Congress.

Enemies of the measure hope the entire attention of progressive organizations is being exhausted by the fight over anti-labor legislation, the Greek deal and proposed measures to silence democratic thought and action under the guise of protecting the country from subversive influences.

Leaders of the movement to solve the low and middle income population's housing crisis point out that even good wages, peace and free speech can't be enjoyed to the best advantage in slums, parks and overcrowded furnished rooms.

Weekly Union Radio Broadcast Features Stowe

Progressive monthly journals like *The Southern Patriot* welcome the recent announcement that one of America's great trade unions, The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, has launched a weekly news broadcast on Wednesday evenings. At today's pace, a lot happens within a month. A weekly analysis from the standpoint of democratic social and political action fills a long-felt need.

Featuring Leland Stowe, well-known author, journalist and war correspondent, the series began late in April over the Mutual Broadcasting System.

In this connection, we have a word to say to our readers and another one to the United Electrical Workers.

We suggest that our readers contact their local stations and ask them to provide a regular outlet for the Leland Stowe Mutual broadcasts.

We ask the UERMWA and Mr. Stowe to give a substantial place in the weekly analyses to the democratic upsurge of the South.